
* ROOM 313 *

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* Property of Johnnie *

* Speer. *

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15
19

CAST

BELL HOP CHORUS GIRL BIT
ELY CHARACTER COMEDY
BULL BARTON CHARACTER HEAVY
LARRY LEAD

MADGE CHARACTER
CARRIE INGENUE.

PROPS

Bed
Dresser
Tooth brush
Quart bottle with liquid
Newspaper
Table
Chair
Three revolvers
Papers
Small sack of diamonds

SETTING

Interior of a room in a small hotel in the city. Plain room

GIRL

(ENTERS D. R. C. WITH ELY CARRYING GRIPS) Well here is the room. It's the only one in the house, and you'll have to be satisfied with it. This convention of the Purity League has filled the hotel up to capacity.

ELY

My it's a mighty plain room, but I guess it will have to do. Call me at eight thirty tomorrow, I'm to speak at the Central Christian Church on the subject of immoral conduct, and it's trend to ruination. My I've never been in a hotel before and I feel funny.

GIRL

You look funny. Where did you come from?

ELY

Cams Corner, Iowa. I'm a deacon in the church there. I guess I never did approve of hotels---guess that's cause I've heard of too many bad goings on in 'em. Now are you sure this is a decent place or do you harbore scarlet women, and criminals here?

GIRL

Say what do you think this is a Salvation Army home or something? Of course we've got women here, and crooks. This hotel is run to make money. Well, I'll be leaving you. (POINTS R.) Now that's the bath room there, and this door isn't supposed to open; it's another room.

ELY

Oh very well, what room number is this?

GIRL

Room 313. Not superstitious are you?

ELY

Oh no, the Lord will provide. The Lord is with me wherever I go.

GIRL

Well, he'll have to sleep on the floor then, there's only room for one on the bed. Say don't get worried about this room though; it hasn't been rented out for a long time---not since the night Slim Daly was shot in here.

ELY

Eh?

GIRL

Poor Slim! He was killed by the Bull.

ELY

Do you allow them in the hotel?

GIRL

Oh I don't mean a male cow, I mean Bull Barton, the dirtiest plain clothes officer that was ever given a star. Slim Daly was a boot-legger, and the Bull wanted to capture him. They had a little argument and when Slim turned his back, the Bull shot him. Slim dropped dead right there on that bed. (ELY JUMPS UP) Don't worry we cleaned the bed sheets. By the way, don't be frightened if the

Police knock on your door in the middle of the night and make you get up. You know the police are hunting a couple of diamond thieves and about every night they raid the hotel now. But they won't do anything to you unless they suspect you. Don't have any liquor in your room, or they'll give you life for it here. Well good night. After them few remarks I hope you sleep well.

ELY

I won't be able to sleep a wink. Have you got any stationary? I'm engaged to marry a woman back in Cam's Corner, and I promised her I'd write her every time I thought of her. I carry her picture always right next to my heart/ (TAKES OUT PICTURE FROM HIP POCKET) Her name is Ella Gander. Isn't she pretty?

GIRL

Yes, but what's all them knots on her head?

ELY

You've got the picture upside down.

GIRL

This way out! (EXIT R. C.)

ELY

Oh this is terrible. I won't sleep a wink all night. To think I would stop in a hotel where the police raid. (PLACES PICTURE) Ah my dear Ella, I'm going to place your picture so you can watch me sleep all night, and remember Ella I'm thinking of you. (TAKES OFF SHOES AND GOES TO BED TO UNDRESS) I wonder if they'll raid tonight? Of course I'm safe as long as I don't have any alcohol or liquor in my possession. Of course I haven't any. (PUTS HAND UNDER PILLOW) What's this? (PULLS OUT HALF PINT) A bottle! (SMELLS) Alcohol. Great Scott, where did it come from. I must get rid of this quick. before they come in and raid. (A KNOCK IS HEARD ON THE DOOR) W o o o is it

BULL

The law!

ELY

Oh what shall I do with this? (HIDES IT IN SHOE AND PUTS SHOE UNDER BED)

BULL

(ENTERS) Well, what you got in here?

ELY

Nothing!

BULL

You're a liar!

ELY

No I'm a deacon.

BULL

I'm shaking down the hotel. (SEARCHES ROOM AND ELY) Got anything on you? Nope! Well, I'm sorry I didn't get you! (SPITS AND EXITS)

ELY

Oh thank thee dear Lord for being with me. My what a rough man.

3

I wonder how that stuff got in this room. I must get it out. (LOOKS IN DRAWERS IN DRESSER) (PULLS OUT THREE MORE BOTTLES) Help! This room is hatching half pints!

***** NUMBER ONE *****

(ENTERS R. IN NIGHT GOWN.) Well, I dumped that liquor out in the bath room. Oh if my little Ella in Cams Corner new what I'm going through. Well, I must go to bed, and try to get some sleep if I can. There's a bed bug! (BRUSHES BED BUG) Get over! (TURNS OUT LIGHT) I know I won't sleep a ~~night~~ win tonight. Blame them bed bugs. Ho hum! (THE STAGE IS SILENT FOR A SHORT PAUSE)

MADGE

(ENTERS L. DRESSED IN FLIMSY NEGLIGENCE. GOES OVER TO DRESSER STRIKES A MATCH.) What the--(RUSHES TO C. AND TURNS ON THE LIGHT) Who stole my hootch?

ELY

(RAISING UP IN BED) I--er beg your pardon?

MADGE

(TURNS AROUND SURPRISED) Well for the love of cold slaw! Rip Van Winkle, when did you arrive?

ELY

Just onight madam, I'm a stranger here in town. Er--did you want something in this room?

MADGE

Yes, but you're not it. Say, whiskers, did you happen to discover a bottle, full of white liquid, which wen placed in the stomach migrates to the head causing a form of dizziness called intoxication?

ELY

You mean Alcohol?

MADGE

My Gawd! How did you guess it?

ELY

I--er did discover some alchohol in that---er drawer.

MADGE

What did you do with it?

ELY

Poured it in the sink!

MADGE

What! Well, you dished faced snuff dipper you. How dare you pour out my liquor. I oughta bust your head for you. You got your nerve just because you find it in this room to take it on yourself to pour out my liquor. Who the heck are you any way?

ELY

Why I---er-I'm a member of the Purity League.

MADGE

Purity League? I suppose you're here to reform the city, huh?

ELY

Oh my yes, by the time we get through with this town there won't be a source of amusement of place of pleasure to be found.

MADGE

(SITS DOWN ON BED AND LAUGHS) Oh that's funny! I never even thought about 'em renting this room out. It's been vacant for months. I always hid my drinks in here, so if they did raid, they wouldn't find it in my room.

ELY

Oh horrors! Horrors, are you a bootlegger!

MADGE

You tell 'em baby. (TAKES OUT CIGARETTE) Have a puff?

ELY

Mercy! I'm a deacon! My believ has no place for cigarettes and especially for women. By the way hadn't you better go back in your own room---you know it, ~~Madge~~ --it --er---(IS EMBARRASSED)

MADGE

No, thanks, I'm kind of lonely tonight. I'll just sit here and talk to you.

ELY

But my dear woman---

MADGE

Oh I'm your dear, am I? (DAUGHS) Gee, I've been needing a good laugh for months. (WALKS ABOUT ROOM GOES TO TABLE PICKS UP PICTURE) Who's the battle ship?

ELY

That's my promised bride. As soon as this convention is over, I'm going back to Cam's Corenr and marry her.

MADGE

Aren't you pretty old to consider marriage ?

ELY

I'm only forty five.

MADGE

Impossible!

ELY

What's impossible?

MADGE

You couldn't have grown a face like that in forty five years. Say you were lucky that the Bull didn't catch you with that liquor in your room.

ELY

Oh I m sure that I could prove my innocence. You see the Purity League would vouch for my character.

MADGE

That Purity League stuff is a pretty good stall.

ELY
I say, my dear lady, hadn't you better go in your own room? You know you're not dressed very properly.

MADGE
Don't you like my nightie?

ELY
Frankly I do not.

MADGE
You'd don't understand it's use, but after awhile, maybe you'll be able to see through it. (BULL KNOCKS ON THE DOOR) Listen somebody at the door. It's the law. That's the Bull's knock I can tell it. He mustn't catch me.

ELY
Go in your room!

MADGE
(TRIES TO OPEN HER DOOR) The things locked! We're trapped.

ELY
Oh what will we do what will say, I can just hear the judge saying, "A year and a day!"

MADGE
Ah! I have it. (GRABS GLASSES AND RUSHES INTO THE BATH ROOM)

BULL
(ENTERS) Well! I'm back again. I've got this room under suspicion (LOOKS AT DOOR L.) Connecting rooms. Who's the dame? Where is she? She can't get back in her room; the door's locked.

ELY
Oh, now, Mr. Officer, let me explain.

BULL
Shut up! I don't want to hear it. (LOOKS AT DOOR R.) What have you got that door shut for? (GOES TO DOOR) I'll find out. Something tells me I'm going to get a haul out of this room tonight yet. This used to be the favorite room of all the crooks, until the night I shot Slim Daly. (OPENS BATH ROOM DOOR) Well come on out!

ELY
Oh heavenly father provide for some escape, and do it blamed quick!

MADGE
(ENTERS EARING ELY'S GLASSES AND CARRYING A TOOTH BRUSH)

BULL
Who is this woman?

MADGE
(TO ELY) Hubby, dear, who is this man?

BULL
Hubby? Is he your husband?

MADGE
Why certainly. Aren't you, dear. (GOES OVER AND PUTS HER ARMS AROUND HIM) Isn't this just terrible? Oh, darling, you must tell the Purity League all about this.

BULL

Purity League? Oh are you folks gospel speakers? (LAUGHS) I thought you looked crooked. Well, I haven't anything on ya. But listen the woman that lives in the next room is a bad character. We've got bad reports on her, and she may be mixed up with the diamond robbery. Better watch out. (SPITS ON FLOOR) Well s'long! (EXITS R. C.)

MADGE

(LAUGHS) It worked, didn't it? Now you're my husband!

ELY

But, my dear woman, I can't keep up such a deception. You must get out of here. I promised to be true to my one and only Ella in Cam's Coerner.

MADGE

That's nothing. I've been true to the army and navy for thirty years.

ELY

Oh horrors, horrors, me a deacon associating with women who smoke and sell foul liquor.

MADGE

Well, I'm not going back to my room for awhile. This stall about being your wife has got to stick, do you think I want the Bull to drag me down? (PULLS OUT A LITTLE SACK FROM ONE OF HER POCKETS) Listen do you see this? Here's the diamonds they are looking for. If they caught them on me, I would get ten years if I got a day.

ELY

Well, what are you going to do with them?

MADGE

I'm going to give them to you. (HANDS THEM TO HIM)

ELY

Ow! I don't want 'em.

MADGE

Go ahead, take 'em. I don't want them to catch 'em in my possession. They won't search you. You're a member of the Purity League. I'm going to have a lot of use for you.

ELY

What do you mean?

MADGE

(PICKS UP NEWSPAPER FROM DRESSER) Listen to this. (READS) "Big Diamond theft. Forty thousand dollars in diamonds were stolen from the home of Mrs. Wesley Van Roberts, well known society woman, while she was entertaining guests at a dinner party. The entire town will be combed for the thieves. The same night Officer Farrel was shot down by masked bandits in a speeding motor car. This daring robbery marks the crisis of a bloody war between the city police and the criminals that have infested the community." Now what do you think of that?

ELY

Horrors! Horrors!

MADGE

Now I want you to keep these diamonds while I go down the hall to

another room. My daughter is in there, and I must see her before the Bull gets at her.

ELY

Have you a daughter?

MADGE

You bet your life, I have and I'm going to bring her down here to this room where she will be safe. By the time they are through with this hotel tonight, there won't be ten people left in it. Now remember you must be careful. Forty thousand dollars in diamonds are now in your possession. It's only natural that they will accuse whoever stole the diamonds of Killing Officer Farrell, and that will mean the Devil's arm chair.

ELY

Devil's arm chair?

MADGE

Yes, it's a cute little black chair, got a nice copper seat in the bottom of it---lot of funny little wires all around it, and when you set down in it, they put a funny little metal bonnet on your head, somebody pulls the switch---kerpluke! Yer dead.

ELY

Oh!

MADGE

I'll be back in a little while. Watch your step, hubby dear. (TICKLES HIM UNDER THE CHIN AND EXITS R. C.)

ELY

(GETS UP GOES TO TABLE AND WRITES) Dear Ella, I'm in a hell of a fix!

***** NUMBER TWO *****

ELY

Oh I've got to get out of this place where women with flimsy night gowns fly around, and--(SHOT OFF STAGE) Oh now they're shooting up the place.

LARRY

(ENTERS R. C.) Quick! Hide me, it's the Bull. He's on my trail. Don't ask questions grandpa, let's have a little action. Here take this pint. See you later. (EXITS IN MADGE'S ROOM L.)

ELY

Oh for heavens sake another pint (HIDES IT NIGHT GOWN)

BULL

(KNOCKS ON DOOR AND ENTERS) Well, what's the idea? Where is he? There's a crook running around loose in this hotel, and I thought I saw him dodge in your room. This looks funny to me? Say what have you got in this room any way?

ELY

Just bed bugs and cockroaches, that's all.

BULL

You know you might be a crook for all I know. I don't trust nobody--not even myself. Got any liquor since I left you?

ELY

No--no sir!

BULL

(LOOKS UNDER BED) (PULLS OUT A QUART) What th--

ELY

Oh, Alla, your little Ely is on his way now!

BULL

(LAUGHS) I thought I'd find something in this room. Never failed yet. Room 313 ---crook's favorite suite. Got a quart of the stuff too. Guess you know what that means in this town? Purity League. Ha ahw That's agood one. Well, we'll see how this taste--might not be bad.

ELY

Oh why oh why did I ever leave Cam's Corner!

BULL

(TAKES OUT DRINK SPITS) Hell!

ELY

What is it?

BULL

Ginger ale!

ELY

(FACE TO HEAVEN) Dear Lord, thanks for the ginger ale!

BULL

Well, don't think you're too smart. I might be back (SPITS AND EXIT)

ELY

I don't care if you never come back.

LARRY

(ENTERS L.) Has he gone?

ELY

Yes.

LARRY

Good? Now don't get excited, but there's going to be a murder in jdydjdydj your room, brother.

ELY

What!

LARRY

That mug that just came in here is going to getjdy loaded so full of lead he'll think he's a zing pot. Say what became of the woman that lives next door?

ELY

She went out to get her daughter. But be good enough to take this pint--(HANDS IT TO HIM)

LARRY

Sure.. Want a drink?

ELY

No, thanks, I never drink.

LARRY

Neither do I. (TAKES A BIG DRINK) I gotta drink to keep my wits working I'm going to kill a cop. I've only got to kill one more and I'm thru.

CARRIE

(ENTERS WITH MADGE RUNS TO LARRY) Oh Larry I'm so glad to see you But, mother, who is this man? (POINTS TO ELY)

MADGE

Oh he's a shrimp from Clam's Corner.

ELY

Not clam, Cam's Corner.

MADGE

What's the difference? It aint on the map. (TO CARRIE) Now, daughter, don 't be frightened. Everything will be all right after tonight.

CARRIE

But, Mother, it's so terrible. Surely there's been enough blood shed without any more. And it's all over me. I'm the one that the Bull wants. He'd have never shot my father if he hadn't wanted me to with him. Larry, I wish you would forget trying to avenge the Bull.

LARRY

Nix! The snake shot my pal, Slim Daly, shot him in the back, and I swore that I'd get even with him it was the last thing I ever did.

CARRIE

Oh it's so horrible.

MADGE

Poor kid! Her nerves are all shot to pieces. I wish I'd left her in school where she didn't have to be around all of this trouble. She aint cut out to be a crook. I'm glad of it. Her father and I used to think some day we'd go straight, but what was the use?

ELY

Who was her father?

MADGE

Slim Daly, the man the Bull shot in this room. You see my husband and I always kept her in a school and we'd go and see her ever so often, but one day Slim took a notion he wanted Carrie to come and spend a few months with us. He was planning on making a big haul and taking her to the seashore for a vacation. You see we never let the kid know what we did, until we had her come here. Well, then Slim and Larry here were working on a big bank job, and naturally we had to stay in town awhile. Carrie was sittin' in the lobby of the hotel one day and the Bull happened to come around. He sat down beside her and began saying some pretty insulting things to her.
~~QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED OF THE PLAYERS~~

CARRIE

Oh, mother, don't talk about it. It's all so horrible.

MADGE

I've got to tell this old guy, honey. He's going to help us out. Now you see when the Bull started talking that way to her naturally she didn't know what he meant. She got up and tried to get away from him, but he kept following her. One day he came into her room. She

ran from him down the hall to her dad's room, which happened to be this one. The Bull followed right after her. Well, Slim just natrually beat the living devil out of him, and threw him out the door, but when my husband had his back turned the Bull slipped in and shot him in the back.

LARRY

The damn dirty skunk!

MADGE

Now, you see why we have sworn to get the Bull. Larry was my husband's pal, and then too he's sort of fallen for Carrie here. They'll get married some day I guess.

CARRIE

No--never! I can never marry a crook--a murderer!

MADGE

Now don't talk that way, darlin'. Larry aint no crook; he's the straightest high jacker, and safe blower that ever walked a side walk. (KNOCK ON DOOR) Quick! There's the Bull again. He mustn't see Carrie. Make a break---fly! Get to some other hotel. (THEY START)

BULL

(GUN IN HAND) All right. Up with the mitts! I've got you this time.

MADGE

We're trapped.

BULL

Larry, the Flash, Madge, the wife of Slim, and I'll be dogged if here aint my little sweetie. Well, you and Larry will have a nice term behind the bars, and as for you-(TAKES CARRIE'S ARM) I reckon I can use you better.

CARRIE

No! no! Let go of me!

LARRY

(GRABS ELY AND STANDS BEHIND HIM, PUTTING HIM RIGHT IN THE C. BETWEEN HIM AND THE BULL) Let her go, Bull!

BULL

Look out, I'll shoot!

LARRY

Well, go ahead!

ELY

(FAINTS) Owv!

(CLOSE IN)
***** NUMBER THREE *****

(ALL ARE BACK IN SAME POSITIONS)

LARRY

Well, Bull, I guess you've got us all right.

BULL

Yes, you know good and well I have. Sit down. I gotta talk terms to you folks. (THEY ALL SIT DOWN)

ELY

(SITS ON THE FOOT OF THE BED, JUMPS UP ALL OF A SUDDEN) Oh for heavens sake.

BULL

What's the matter?

ELY

(REACHES UNDER BED SHEETS AND PULLS OUT A PINT) Another pint !

BULL

Well, let it go. We h~~as~~nt got time to bother with a little thing like that. Guess I've got a pretty big haul now. I was in the other room there, and I overheard every word you said. So you've got the diamonds, eh? (TO ELY)

ELY

Yes, but they aren't mine.

BULL

Well, fork 'em over to me. (HANDS HIM THE DIAMOND SACK)

ELY

Yes sir.

BULL

Forty thousand dollars in rocks.

MADGE

Well, what are you gonna do? Turn 'em in?

BULL

Oh I don't know.

LARRY

He'd like to keep 'em himself.

BULL

That'll be enough out of you.

ELY

Yes, sonny, don't say anything you don't need to. We're in it bad enough now.

BULL

Well, they're going to hang the murder of officer Farrel on the one caught with these daamonds. How's that sound to you?

ELY

Awful! Listen, Mr. Officer, I aint in this now, I---

BULL

Shut up!

ELY

That's just what I was going to do.

BU

BULL

How would you folks like to go free for what you've done?

MADGE

What dya mean?

bull

Listen here's forty thousand dollars worth of diamonds. I'll give y9 you half of them, and you can beat it out of the country, that is you two can--(LOOKS AT CARRIE)

LARRY

But what about her?

BULL

She stays with me. Is it a bargain?

LARRY

No!

BULL

All right then the next thing I offer is the chair--both of you!

CARRIE

Oh no no! No! Please don't. I'll go with you.

LARRY

No you won't, Carrie. I'll go to the chair before I'll let that louse have you.

MADGE

No, you won't, Larry. Listen to what the Bull has to say, Carrie. Go ahead and take him up. If he wants you and that will save us from a trip to the pen why you can afford to suffer a little by being his woman.

LARRY

Madge, my God! what are you saying? You mean you will let your own daughter give her self to this low down hound of hell?

MADGE

(SNIERS) Why not?

BULL

Now yer talkin' That's a fair proposition. I get the girl, and half of the diamond hall?

LARRY

(REACHES FOR GUN) Damn you I'll--

BULL

(GUN ON HIM) Look out!

CARRIE

Don't, Larry. He'll kill you. Mr. Bull, let them go and I am yours.

BULL

Sure. Come on over here. (SHE GOES TO HIM, HE PUTS HIS ARMS AROUND HER AND GRINS AT LARRY) Guess, I'm winnder after all.

MAG

MADGE

But you must let us go like you said you would.

BULL

Oh I don't know about that. I can still send you up and keep the girl if I want to.

MADGE

What do you mean---we don't get to go?

LARRY

See! He's double crossed us.

BULL

Let you go, I should say not. I'm no fool. (TO LARRY) You said you were going to get me for what I done to your partner. Well, I'm not taking any chances on turning you lose. I've got all three of you, and I'm going to make the most of it.

ELY

But, Mr. Officer, that aint right.

BULL

Shut up.

ELY

I guess I'd better.

CARRIE

Oh you mean you're going to send them up after I--

BULL

Sure, and don't worry, kid, you're going with me any way. Listen I could send you along with 'em, but I'm savin' you from the jug, and now you and me's goin' to get better acquainted.

CARRIE

Oh no no, you mustn't do that. (SHE PUTS HER ARMS AROUND HIM) Oh please, please don't. I'll do anything for you, if you 'll only let them go free. I'll be your woman, I'll do as you say, but let them go free. (HAS A VIOLENT HOLD ON HIS ARM)

BULL

Naw! Let go of me. Look out! (CARRIE TWISTS HIS ARM UPWARD JUST AS MADGE GRABS A GUN FROM THE TABLE) Let go of me you fool. (SHOTS GUN IN THE AIR)

MADGE

(GUN ON HIM) All right now, drop your cannon!

BULL

(DROPS GUN TO CARRIE) Damn you. I see your trick now.

ELY

It didn't take you long to catch on, did it?

LARRY

Let me at him, Madge.

MADGE

No, I'm going to handle him. He shot my husband, and I'll pay the debt.

BULL

Well, what are you going to do?

MADGE

I'm going to shoot you in the back just like you did Slim Daly.

BULL

Listen here, you can't do that. They'll catch you if you do. This entire hotel is surrounded by law. You can't escape.

MADGE

I don't care. I'm willing to swing after I've shot you. But I don't think I'll swing. (LEVELING GUN AT HIM) Bull Barton, turn your back and take your medicine.

BULL

No, don't be a fool. (THROWS DIAMONDS DOWN) Here you can have the diamonds; I don't want them. I won't bother you. Let me go. Don't kill me for god's sake don't kill me.

MADGE

I'm gonna kill you, Bull Barton.

BULL

(BEGGING) No, My God? don't. I can't die. Please don't kill me. I'll do anything for you, I'll be your slave, I'll help you, I'll--

MADGE

You go to hell.

ELY

I'll bet he will too.

MADGE

I'll make the world one soul better by killing you. It's such ~~kkk~~ double crossing, low lived crooks as you that make law a mockery. You try to chase down criminals when you are the blackest crime monger of them all. Bull Barton, you die!

BULL

No! no! (SCREAMS) Help! They're killing me! Help! (KNOCK ON THE DOOR) There's the law now you don't dare shoot me.

MADGE

Oh so you've got the law, have you, Mr. Hero. Well, we'll fix that. (HANDS GUN TO LARRY) Hold it on him. (GOES TO DOOR R. C.) Officer, this is Madge Daly, of the U. S. secret service. Here are my papers. (HANDS THEM OUT DOOR) I'll have a prisoner for you in a minute.

BULL

U. S. Secret Service!

MADGE

Yes, Bull Barton, when you shot my husband, I made up my mind to put an end to your kind of men. I joined the service, and I've been getting dope on you for the past four months. Give me that star! (TAKES HIS STAR) Now instead of shooting you, I'm going to let the law take it's course and I've got some pretty good charges. Now march!

BULL

Well, I'll be damned! (EXITS L.

LARRY

Madge, I never knew you were working for the government.

MADGE

That was a secret. Now, Larry, you are going to go straight, marry my daughter, and I'm going to be your mother-in-law.

CARRIE

Larry!

LARRY

Carrie!

ELY

(PICKS UP BOTTLE OF LIQUOR) Raspberry!

***** F I N A L E *****